

First Sunday of Advent (November 30, 2025)

HOPE Through Caring for the Captive

Today, we begin our celebration of Advent. For these next four Sundays, we will eagerly anticipate the gift that is ours in Jesus Christ. To guide us through this Advent season, we will use the candles arranged in this wreath to help us remember that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreath itself forms a circle because life in Christ has no end.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.

We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, God is with us, Immanuel.

(The first candle is lit)

Hope is our assurance that God is with us even in the darkest of times, times facing uncertainty—the unknown.

Hope is our confidence that God's presence is felt around the world through the work of the Church. Gracious God, help each of us to bring hope into the lives of others.

Hope is our belief that the promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

God is our hope today and forever! Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

In the tumult of the West Bank of Palestine/Israel, Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, a Moravian Unity Undertaking, continues its work with all God's children regardless of race, religion or creed. Caught in the midst of roadblocks and setbacks, children with intellectual disabilities are continuing to learn together and find hope.

We thank God for the hope that rises up in us.

In Miami Gardens, Florida the Margate Moravian Church gears up to provide spiritual support to inmates and correctional officers in Broward County Florida.

We thank God for the hope that rises up in us.

The Westside Moravian Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin advocates for prison reform and participates in prayer vigils for those who are incarcerated.

We thank God for the hope that rises up in us.

In this time, our congregation celebrates the light of Hope in our community and through our shared ministry:

(speak aloud the areas of ministry that offering comfort and hope for those caught in hard places)

And all God's children say:

We thank God for the hope that rises up in us.

ST. THEODULPH (151G)

The hope of our salvation is ours to fill our hearts.

Christ came to dwell among us and share our common plight.

*The whole world's grief and suffering and earth's unspoken pain,
your perfect hope embraces till only hope remains.*

(Adapted from #268 vs. 2 in the Moravian Book of Worship, Text by Paul Gerhardt, Tr. Jean Dogga Pearson © 1992. Used by permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication.)

We pray today for all God's children,

That each one might know the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes from God through the Advent of the Christ Child. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent (December 7, 2025)

PEACE Through Protecting the Vulnerable

On this Second Sunday of Advent, as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child, we light the candle of peace.

We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, God is with us, Immanuel.

(Two candles are lit)

John the Baptist calls out in the wilderness, "Make straight the crooked paths and prepare the way of the Lord!

"The way of the Lord is right relationships, wholeness, and harmony for all people everywhere.

For those experiencing crooked and stony paths, may new ways be found that are smooth.

Jesus, we pray that you will guide our feet into the path of peace.

In Sierra Leone, young girls had to leave their villages to be educated. Away from home, without protection, young girls were vulnerable to abuse and worse. With the establishment of a Moravian School for boys and for girls, now children are safe, learning and thriving close to home.

We thank God for those who offer peace through protection.

The global work of the Unity Women's Desk develops congregational resources that equip people to advocate for both women who are suffering from violence and for changes in legal systems.

We thank God for those who offer peace through protection.

In this time, our congregation celebrates the light of Peace in our community and through our shared ministry: (speak aloud the areas of ministry that offer protection for the vulnerable.)

And all God's children say:

We thank God for those who offer peace through protection.

ST. THEODULPH (151G)

The peace of our salvation is ours to fill our hearts.

Christ came to dwell among us and share our common plight.

*The whole world's grief and suffering and earth's unspoken pain,
your perfect peace embraces till only peace remains.*

(Adapted from #268 vs. 2 in the Moravian Book of Worship, Text by Paul Gerhardt, Tr. Jean Dogga Pearson © 1992. Used by permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication.)

We pray today for all God's children,

That each one might know the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes from God to the world through the advent of the Christ Child. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent (December 14, 2025)

JOY Through Clothing Those in Need

On this third Sunday of Advent, as we anticipate the coming Christ Child, we light the candle of joy.

We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, God is with us, Immanuel.

(Three candles are lit)

When Christ comes into our lives,
He brings the fullness of joy.

Jesus healed the lame, cleansed the leper, recovered sight to the blind and raised the dead. We are witnesses to what we have seen and heard.

Because we see what Jesus can do in the world, we can live every day in the joy of the Messiah.

When Moravian Academy in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania realized they had an abundance of school uniforms they partnered with Central Moravian Church and the Board of World Mission to ship them to Nicaragua and Honduras and share them with the children there.

We thank God for those who bring joy through clothing those in need.

Oak Grove Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina has been partnering with their neighborhood elementary for over a decade to help meet the needs of students and staff. This year they provided T-shirts for every student as part of their Community Teams Program.

We thank God for those who bring joy through clothing those in need.

Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church is offering care and clean clothing through their "Cleansing Waters Outreach" serving people at the local laundromat with love and dignity.

We thank God for those who bring joy through clothing those in need.

In this time, our congregation celebrates the light of Joy in our community and through our shared ministry

(speak aloud the areas of ministry that provide clothing and basic needs in your community)

And all God's children say:

We thank God for those who bring joy through clothing those in need.

ST. THEODULPH (151G)

The joy of our salvation is ours to fill our hearts.

Christ came to dwell among us and share our common plight.

*The whole world's grief and suff'ring and earth's unspoken pain,
your perfect joy embraces till only joy remains.*

(Adapted from #268 vs. 2 in the Moravian Book of Worship, Text by Paul Gerhardt, Tr. Jean Dogga Pearson © 1992. Used by permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication.)

We pray today for all God's children,

That each one might know the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes from God to the world through the advent of the Christ Child. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 21, 2025)

LOVE Through Nurturing the Body

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, as we anticipate the coming Christ Child, we light the candle of love.

We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, God is with us, Immanuel.

(Four candles are lit)

Joseph was uncertain how to love Mary when he found her to be with child. The angel assured him the child was Holy, a gift of love for humanity for the Creator God.

Jesus Christ is pure love, a holy gift.

Joseph and Mary became a family, naming their son, Immanuel, God with us— Jesus, the one who saves.

By the name of Jesus, we know love in all its forms.

This summer a shipping container filled with over \$250,000 worth of needed medical supplies made its way by truck, steamer, and boat to the Moravian Clinic at Ahuas in a remote region of Honduras. Lives will be saved. Bodies will be nurtured and healed.

We thank God for those who show love through nurturing the body.

Covenant Moravian Church in York, Pennsylvania have joined with a local feeding ministry and together they provide a hot meal once a month to those in need. Bodies are fed and cared for.

We thank God for those who show love through nurturing the body.

Members at Lake Auburn Moravian Church in Victoria, Minnesota work with a local non-profit to prepare and deliver 5000 healthy,

ready-to-enjoy meals each Friday, covering the weekend gap for low-income families and individuals.

We thank God for those who show love through nurturing the body.

In Winston-Salem, North Carolina Anthony's Plot operates their neighborhood summer Freedom School providing nutritious meals and snacks to their scholars. They have hired a parent to make "home meals" that reflect the students' culture.

We thank God for those who show love through nurturing the body.

In this time, our congregation celebrates the light of Love in our community and through our shared ministry:

(speak aloud the areas of ministry that nurture bodies in need):

And all God's children say,

We thank God for those who show love through nurturing the body.

ST. THEODULPH (151G)

*Great love alone compelled you to leave eternal light,
to come and dwell among us and share our common plight.
The whole world's grief and suffering and earth's unspoken pain,
your perfect love embraces till only love remains.*

(Adapted from #268 vs. 2 in the Moravian Book of Worship, Text by Paul Gerhardt, Tr. Jean Dogga Pearson © 1992. Used by permission of the Interprovincial Board of Communication.)

We pray today for all God's children,

That each one might know the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes from God to the world through the advent of the Christ Child. Amen.